

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's Attorney David A. Fox (Reg. No. 38,807) on August 8, 2008.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 2, 7, 16, and 17 have been cancelled.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended as follow:

1. A method for validating users of communications services, comprising:
generating records for communications service users by at least one service provider, said records store information relating to said communications service users including:
legal liability information;
an originator type code; and
a validation code assigned to selected originator type codes, said validation code operable for facilitating validation of said communications service users, ~~the validation code including an encrypted key that is to be decrypted by a receiving service provider to validate authenticity of the service provider; and~~

storing said records in a subscriber classification database;

wherein said originator type code classifies said communications service users according to at least one of:

nature of use;

communications type;

geography;

business type; and

age;

receiving a communication from an originating communications service user and retrieving an associated record;

if said associated record contains said validation code, appending said originator type code to said communication; and

transmitting said communication to a recipient communications service user along with said originator type code;

wherein said originator type code is presented to said recipient communications service user before establishing a communication session with said originating communications service user.

6. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for validating users of communications services, said storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method, comprising:

generating records for communications service users by at least one service provider, said records store information relating to said communications service users including:

legal liability information;

an originator type code;

and a validation code assigned to selected originator type codes, said validation code operable for facilitating validation of said communications service users, ~~the validation code including an encrypted key that is to be decrypted by a receiving service provider to validate authenticity of the service provider, and~~

storing said records in a subscriber classification database;

wherein said originator type code classifies said communications service users according to at least one of:

nature of use;

communications type;

business type;

geography; and

age;

receiving a communication from an originating communications service user and retrieving an associated record;

if said associated record contains said validation code, appending said originator type code to said communication; and

transmitting said communication to a recipient communications service user along with said originator type code;

wherein said originator type code is presented to said recipient communications service user before establishing a communications session with said originating communications service user.

ALLOW SUBJECT MATTER

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on June 13, 2008 and was interviewed on August 8, 2008.
2. Applicant amended claims 1 and 6, and further cancelled claims 2 and 7.
3. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-16, 18, and 19 (currently renumbered as claims 1-15) are allowable over the prior art of record.
4. This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in the Amendment filed on June 13, 2008 point out the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).
5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUOC H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-3919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tonia L. Dollinger can be reached on 571-272-4170. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Phuoc H Nguyen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2143

August 8, 2008